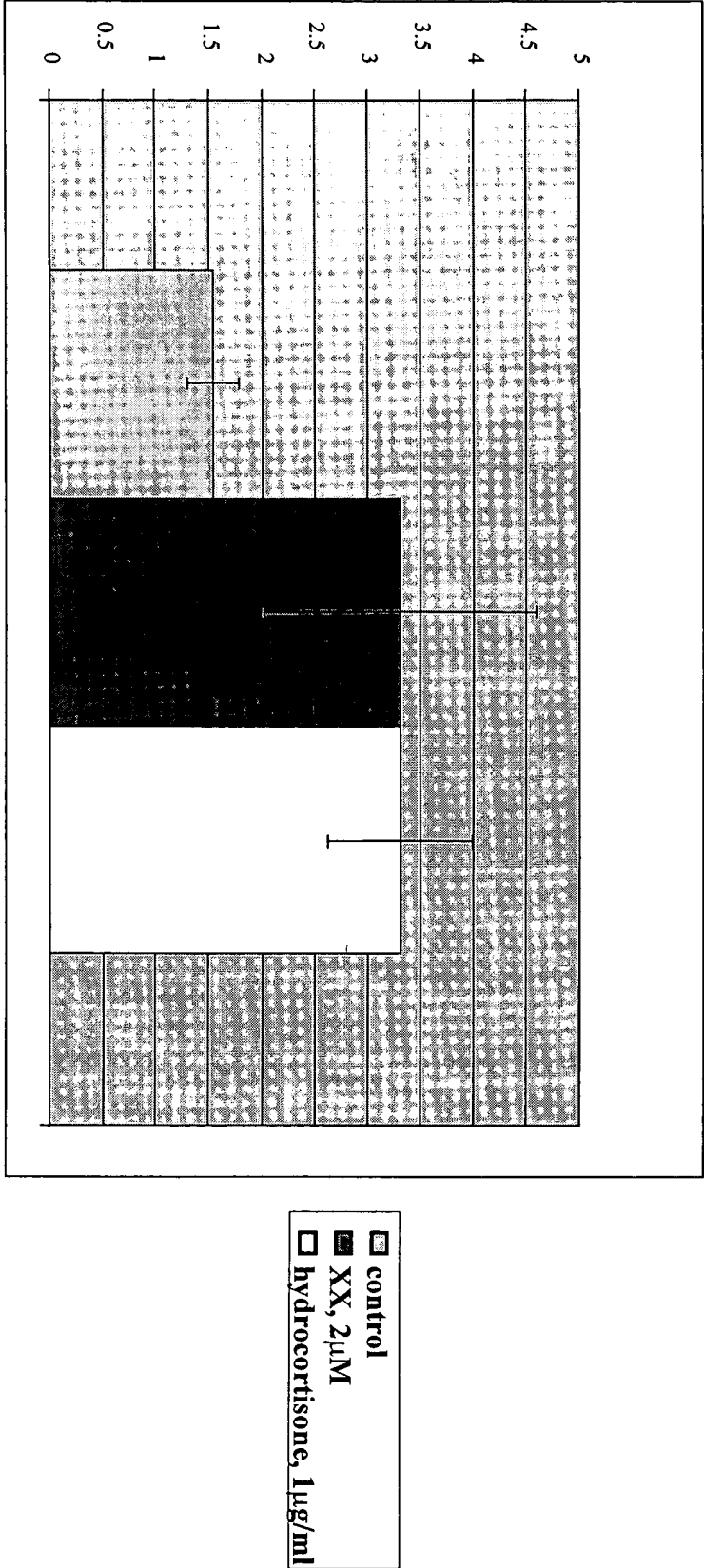


The Hedgehog Antagonist XX Increases Surfactant Production in Embryonic Lung Cultures

(by Quantitative Real-Time PCR)



Short-term treatment of embryonic lung cultures with a hedgehog antagonist increases expression of the maturation marker surfactant type C (Sp-C) as compared to the vehicle control. The effect of XX is similar to the effect observed with a steroid hormone such as hydrocortisone. Steroids are the only drugs known to increase lung maturation and surfactant production in humans.